DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 264 927 JC 860 051

AUTHOR Baker, Ronald
TITLE An Analysis of the Public Feeder High Schools in the MiraCosta Community College District.
INSTITUTION Mira Costa Coll., Oceanside, Calif.
PUB DATE May 85
NOTE 19p.; Submitted to the Strategic Planning Team.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Articulation (Education); *Attendance Patterns; *College Attendance; *College Bound Students; College School Cooperation; Community Colleges; Enrollment Influences; *Enrollment Trends; High Schools; *High School Seniors; Population Trends; Student Recruitment; Two Year Colleges

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to analyze the enrollment patterns of high school seniors from the eight public feeder high schools in the MiraCosta Community College (MCC) District. Using the California Community Colleges Student Data System and information obtained from the County Department of Education and each feeder high school, the study examined the following: the numbers of high school students grades 9 to 12 enrolled during the past 5 years, high school dropout and graduation rates, enrollment at MCC from feeder schools, MCC unit load of recent high school graduates, and sources of MCC student enrollment. Study findings included the following: (1) paralleling trends seen nationwide, the number of seniors attending MCC's feeder high schools declined in recent years, hitting a low point in fall 1983 of 1,627 students, followed by a 3.3% increase in fall 1984; (2) of the 1,664 students who graduated from the feeder high schools in 1984, 205 students enrolled at MCC in Fall 1984; (3) 32.4% of total fall credit enrollment at MCC were new students classified as first-time transfers or first-time transfers from another district; (4) 28.5% of the Class of 1984 were enrolled at MCC on a full-time basis; (5) only 6.3% of first-time students enrolled at MCC in Fall 1984 came directly from the feeder high schools; and (6) the number of 18 and 19 year olds living in the MCC District dropped from 11,472 to 6,064 between 1980 and 1985. Based on study findings, it was concluded that increased recruiting at feeder high schools would not solve MCC's enrollment problem and that MCC's ability to enroll new students was completely dependent upon populations of students the college could not easily control or predict. (LAL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

R. BAKER

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

ED264927

IC 860 051

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC FEEDER HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

By

Dr. Ronald Baker

Submitted To:

Strategic Planning Team

May 1985

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC FEEDER HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Introduction

When the public views the community college system, they envision a campus of 18 and 19 year old students enrolled in a full time transfer program who attend directly from high school. Individuals who work in the community college system know this is no longer true. Simply by looking around a campus one sees many older adults from various age groups attending for a variety of reasons. Still there is a great deal of emphasis placed on the recent high school graduate who is the first time freshman on campus. This discrepancy between perceptions and reality is one of the major concerns of leaders of the community college system. These leaders attempt to educate the public, legislators, governors, and even campus staffs and faculties of the true enrollment characteristics of students enrolled in their institutions.

At MiraCosta younger students comprise less than one sixth of the enrollment picture. In Fall 1984, the median student age was 28 years. In other words, one half of students (3,893) were 28 years of age or older. The percent of students 19 years old and below was 15.7%. Table 4 in appendix A shows an age distribution of all students enrolled first census fall 1984 for MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges.

The emphasis on recruiting high school graduates has been of increased interest in recent years as enrollments at community colleges decline. Many schools have looked at their enrollment practices and have initiated or expanded their outreach or recruiting activities for high school students inorder to encourage more to attend community colleges. However, since 1979, the number of high school graduates has declined by 448,325 students nationally, or 15.0%, resulting in a smaller pool of potential students and stiff competition among recruiting colleges. In California, there has been 45,220 fewer high school graduates, a decrease since 1979 of 15.4%. Four year colleges and universities are now recruiting and accepting students who would, in the past, attend a community college. This condition, along with changing economic conditions and increased fees, has resulted in an overall enrollment decline in the California Community Colleges as well as at MiraCosta College. The purpose of this study is to analyze the enrollment patterns of high school seniors from the 8 public feeder high schools in the college district.

Research Questions

The research will address the following questions.

1. What are the numbers of high school students grade 9 to 12 enrolled at each feeder high school during fall of each year for the past 5 years?

2. What are the dropout rates in our feeder high school?

3. What are the number of high school graduates from each feeder high school?

4. What is the student enrollment at MCC from feeder high schools?

5. What is the unit load of recent high school graduates attending MiraCosta?

6. What is the sources of student enrollment in Fall, 1984?

Methodology

Various documents were utilized to procure the required data such as the CCAF 130 and CCAF 131 of the California Community Colleges Student Data System. In addition, the County Department of Education and each feeder high school were contacted, and specific data was collected. Several computer runs collected data on the MiraCosta students. These data were tabulated in table and graph form with the use of simple descriptive statistics.

Limitations. The information was limited to the past five year period. An attempt was made to collect data on each high school using similar accounting dates. One limitation is that various reporting agencies aggregate their data using different criteria, such as, by unified district instead of by individual high schools. Due to the shortness of time, requests were not made to these agencies asking for data to be broken down by individual high schools or different categories.

Another limitation is that when counting first time freshman from our feeder high schools, approximately 80 to 90 students are currently attending both institutions since we offer classes on the high school campus. In addition, recent high school graduates are not classified necessarily as first time freshman. If they have taken a class in their junior or senior year or during summer school, they would then be classified as either a returning or continuing student. The next limitation of tracking students is that high school seniors often do not choose to attend a college or university directly after high school, and choose to participate in some other activity. Many of these students are non-high school graduates. Another limitation has to do with the accuracy of student reported data and the accuracy of the data entry operator. When examining the date of high school graduation, many students did not have the date entered into the MCC data base. This can mean several things, such as (1) the student did not answer that question on the application;

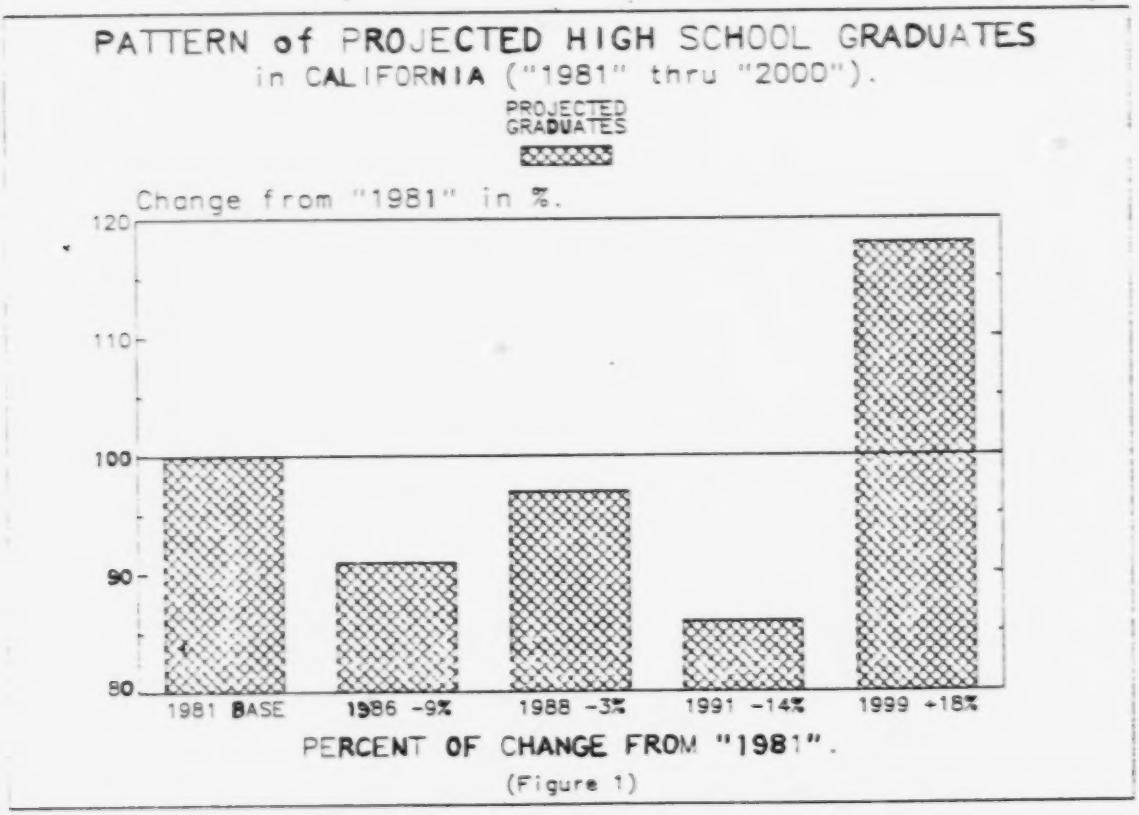
(2) the data entry person did not type in the value; or (3) the student is not a high school graduate. These limitations can confound the results by giving incomplete findings. Finally, the MiraCosta data base is dynamic. In other words, it changes every time a transaction occurs. Trying to isolate an enrollment picture for comparison purposes is difficult.

Findings

The analysis of the feeder high schools will first examine state and national trends in high school enrollments, followed by a description of the high school drop out rate. Next, the analysis will examine the actual number of graduates from our feeder high schools. Finally, the enrollment patterns and unit load for fall 1984 will be analyzed.

High School Enrollments

William McConnel from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education has projected the number of high school graduates from 1981 through the year 2000. Their figures confirm that recently high school enrollments are down due to a decline in the birth rate from a number of years ago. He has also



(Figure 1)

included in the projections, interstate migration, the grade-to-grade student progression, and the retention from grade 9 through graduation. The findings project the following as a common

national pattern:

1. A decrease in the number of graduates in every state and region from the 1981 level to a low point in the 1984-1987 period.

2. An increase in graduates, in some cases very slightly, in 1988 or 1989.

3. A decrease to another low point in the 1990-94 period.

4. For some states, an increase to the year 1999 or 2000, the last year of the projections, and for other states, an increase followed by a period of leveling off to the year 1999 or 2000. (McConnell:1-7)

For California, the projected number of high school graduates will continue to drop statewide through 1986. At that time there will be a 6% increase through 1988 followed by another drop. Figure 1 shows the pattern from 1981 to 2000.

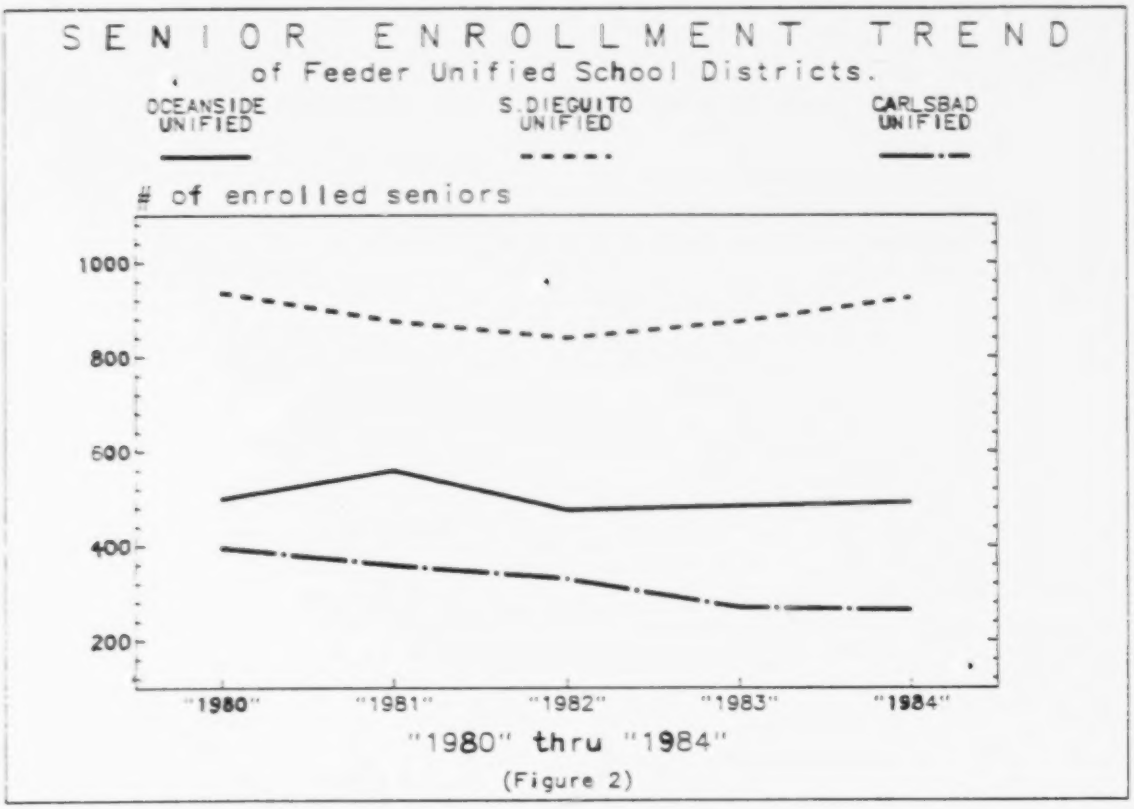
In San Diego, the United Way's report "Environmental Scan - A look Ahead - San Diego County 1985-2000" examined the demographic trends and implications. They concluded that the number of school age children will increase, but the percent of children under age 19 is expected to decline from 30% in 1985 to 25% of the population by the year 2000. Forecasts for San Diego Unified School District (1983-1988) expect a progressive increase in elementary school enrollments and a progressive decrease in secondary school enrollment. United Way predicts great variability among cities. For example, they predict heavy population growth in our area from 1980 to 2000. San Dieguito is expected to grow by 38%; Carlsbad by 71% and Oceanside by 53%. About 84% of the expected future population growth will be attributed to net in-migration. The natural increase in population will account for only 4% of the growth by the year 2000 (United Way: 10-12).

Locally, the number of seniors attending our feeder high schools has declined in recent years hitting a low point in fall 1983 of 1,627 students. In Fall 1984, there was a 3.3% increase from 1983 in 12th grade enrollment from the district's feeder high schools. Table 5, listed in the appendix, shows that since 1983, 12th grade enrollment in San Dieguito Unified High School District had the largest enrollment gain of +5.8 percent followed by Oceanside Unified School District with an increase of +1.7 percent and a decline in the Carlsbad Unified School District of -1.7%. Figure 2, on the next page, shows the trend line of high school seniors attending our feeder unified high school districts.

High School Dropout Rate

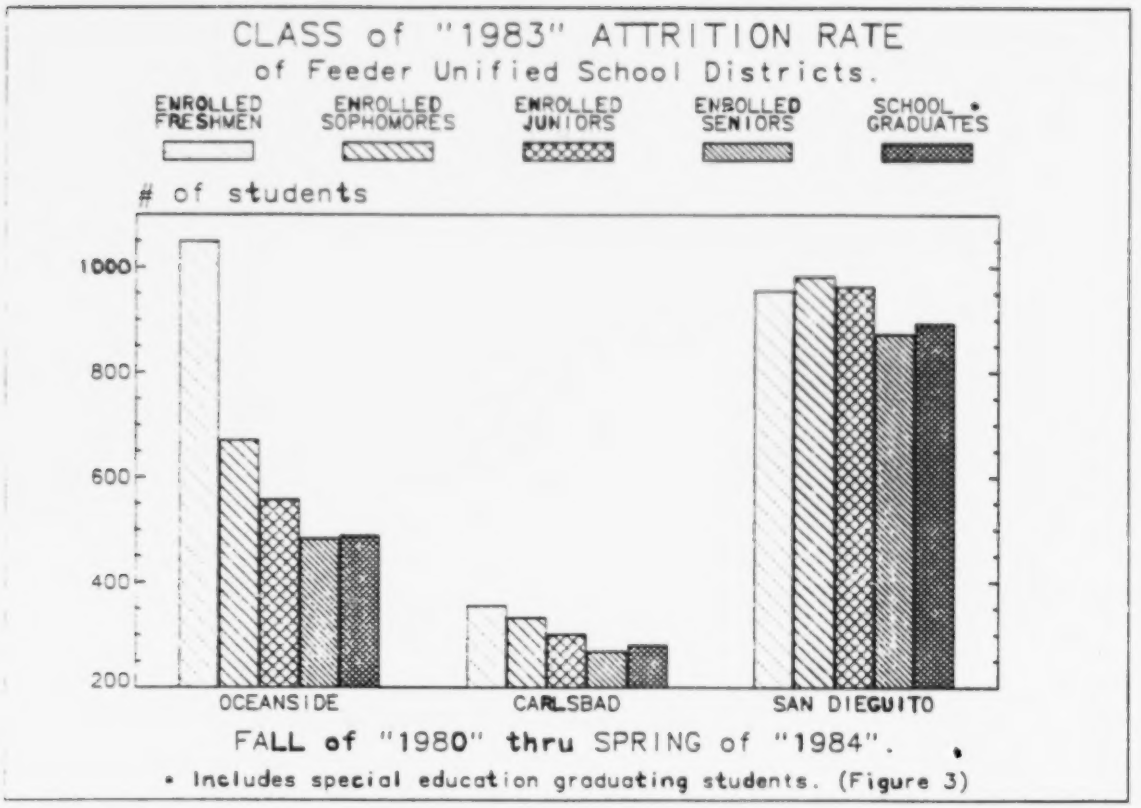
These enrollment figures only represent persisters--those students who stayed in high school all 4 years and are a part of

our potential enrollment pool. However, there is an increasing concern about the number of high school drop-outs who also are a part of our potential enrollment pool. Various sources estimate that the drop-out rate of high school students from the 10th grade as between 25 and 30 percent (McConnell:9). CPEC estimated that the overall attrition rate for the 1983 graduating class was at least 24.0%. These numbers are confounded by several factors,



(Figure 2)

including the in-migration to California of young people, such as refugees, in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, and transfer of some private school students into public schools during these years. If these confounding variables were controlled, the drop out would likely be higher. Figure 3 shows the trend line of students attending in 9th grade through graduation for the class of 1984. These students comprise our pool of potential students who could enroll in fall semester 1984. Some of these students who dropped out may have enrolled after their 18th birthday or will wait for a number of years before enrolling in some form of postsecondary education. Table 5 and 6 included in the appendix shows the enrollment figures from 1980 to 1984 grades 9 to 12 and the number of graduates:



High School Graduate Rate

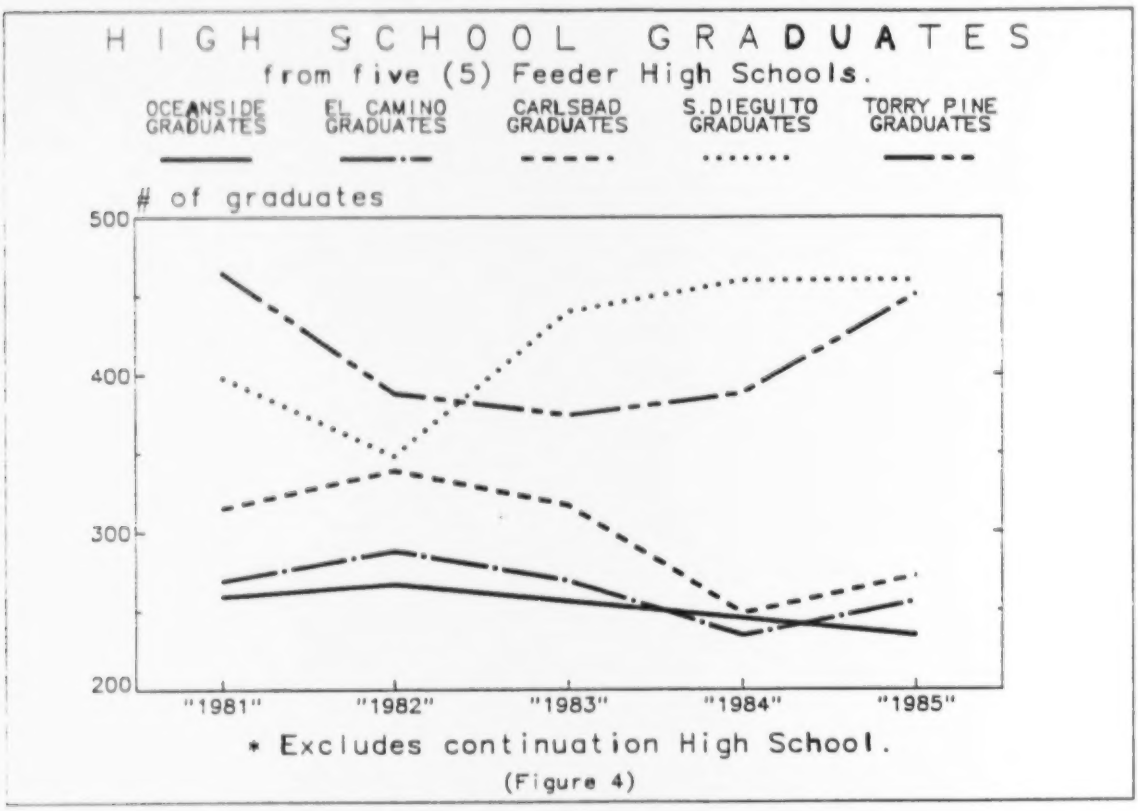
The number of high school graduates from our feeder high schools has not followed similar trends with enrollment. There has been more ups and downs each year in our total district graduates since 1980. The June 1984 graduating class was the lowest during this reporting period. It is estimated that the class of 1985 will be 4.9% larger than the previous year. Figure 4 displays the graduate rate of 5 major feeder high schools since 1981. For a comprehensive analysis, refer to table 6 in the appendix which shows the high school graduates since 1981 by each public and private feeder high school.

MiraCosta Enrollment Patterns

A total of 1,664 high school students graduated in the class of 1984 from our public feeder high schools. However, how many of these students could MiraCosta College expect to enroll at the college during the following Fall of 1984?

The California Postsecondary Education commission recently studied the 279,068 1983 high school graduates from California's public and private high schools. They suggest that if past college-going rate held true in 1983, at least 60 percent of the

high school graduates would have entered accredited institutions of higher education in California the following fall. In recent years, approximately 42 percent enrolled in the California Community Colleges, 6 percent enrolled in the University of



(Figure 4)

California system, 8 percent enrolled in the California State College and University system, and 5 percent enrolled in California Independent Accredited colleges and universities. Another 10 to 15 percent probably enrolled in some formal postsecondary training or educational program in California's proprietary schools, adult schools, Regional Occupation Programs and Centers, and non-accredited colleges. Five percent more probably attended postsecondary educational institutions outside of California. Thus between 20 and 25 percent of them chose either temporarily or permanently not to continue their education following high school. All of these "stop outs" are potential postsecondary students. It is estimated by CPEC that at least half of them are likely to participate in some continuing educational program in the future. (CPEC:37-40)

Table 1. 1982-83 California High School Graduates activities after graduation.

Activity	Estimated Percentage
Enroll in Calif. Community College	42%
Enroll in Univ. of Calif. School	6%
Enroll in Calif. State Univ. School	8%
Enroll in Calif. Independent Coll. & Univ.	3%
Enroll in Out of State University	5%
Enroll in Adult Schools, ROP, Proprietary, or Non-accredited private schools	10-15%
Stop Out due to Employment, Unemployment, Service in Armed Forces	20-25%
Approximate Total	100%

Source: CPEC 1983 High School Eligibility Study, April 15, 1985

Using the above percentages, the estimated number of students potentially enrolling in a community college from our feeder high schools should be 699 out of the 1984 graduating class of 1,664. It is estimated that MiraCosta enrolled at least 205 students during fall 1984. This is 12.3% of the high school class of 1984. The number of high school graduates enrolling at MiraCosta could actually be higher than 205. Errors in the data could occur because the procedure for entering the graduation date figures has only recently been initiated by the Admissions/Records staff. In addition, if a current high school graduate enrolled at MiraCosta prior to graduation, the grad-date information may not have been completed by the student or been entered by the college. The actual number of recent high school graduates is very difficult to track accurately.

Table 2 shows the number of high school students from the class of 1984 enrolled at Miracosta during Fall, 1984. If in fact the CPEC figures are true for our area, then approximately 30% of the recent high school graduates are attending other community college such as Mesa and Palomar. The CPEC estimates could be rather large for our area. Déspite there being no formal studies, several educators in our area believe that many more of our local high school graduates attend 4 year colleges than CPEC estimates. This is most true for Torry Pines, San Dieguito, and Carlsbad high schools. Therefore, MiraCosta could be getting its proportional share of the high school graduates if one recognizes that Palomar offers three times the credit class offerings as does MiraCosta and will draw a share of students from our area. In turn, MiraCosta enrolled 42 students from Vista High School, 22 students from Fallbrook, 7 from San Marcos, and 6 from Escondido from the class of 1984.

Table 2. Number of Students from the Class of 1984 enrolled at MiraCosta, Fall 1984.

High School	1984 Graduates	Enrolled Fall 1984	Percent of Graduates
Oceanside	245	44	18.0
El Camino	234	41	17.5
Carlsbad	248	38	15.3
San Dieguito	460	37	8.0
Torry Pines	388	33	8.5
Sunset	46	4	8.7
La Palma	33	4	12.1
Ocean Shores	10	4	40.0
Total Public H.S.	1,664	205	12.3%

Unit Load of High School Graduates

There is an assumption that recent high school graduates take more classes than do older students. Table 3, reports the number of units taken by the class of 1984 during fall 1984. It shows that 28.5 percent of the students were enrolled full time.

Table 3. Class of 1984 credit and non-credit enrollment patterns Fall 1984.

Unit Category	Number	Percent
No Units(1)	47	23.2%
Less than 6	40	19.3%
1/2 time	28	13.5%
3/4 time	31	15.5%
Full time	59	28.5%
Total	205	100.0%

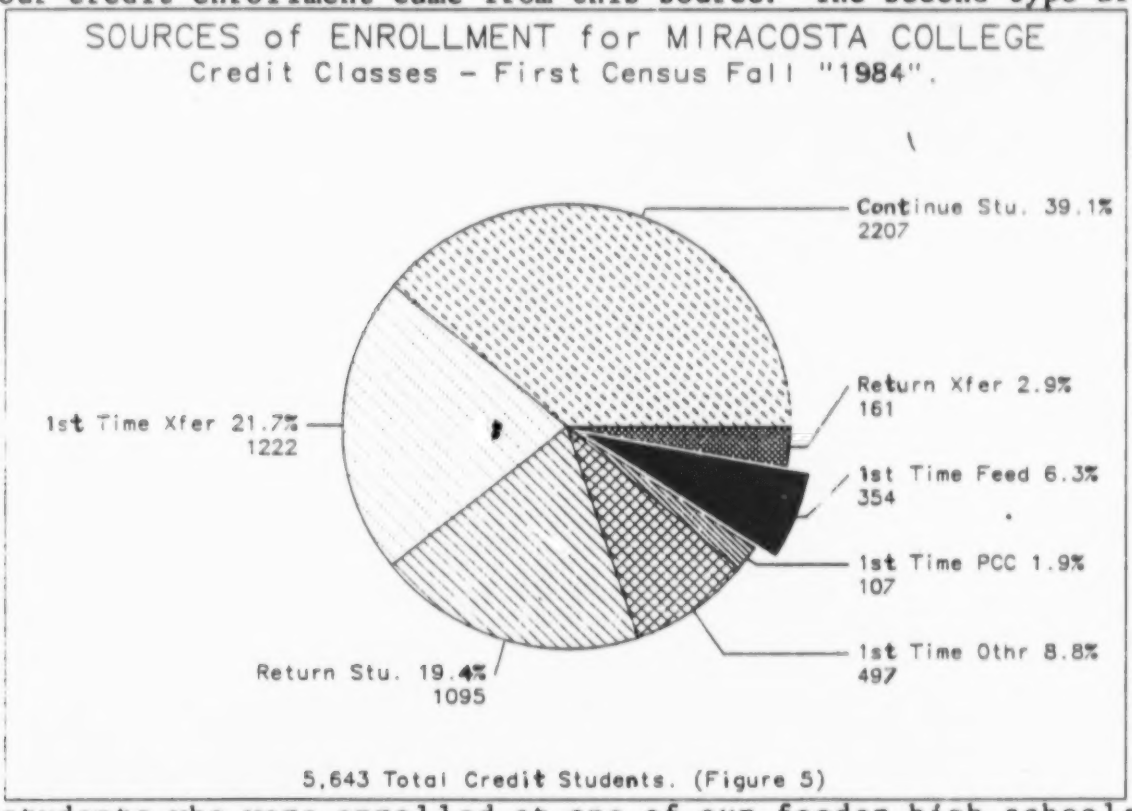
(1) This includes Dropouts, No show applicants, and non-credit students.

Source of Enrollment

The sources of credit enrollment for fall 1984 comes from a variety of institutions and locations. Figure 5 shows the broad categories of enrollment at MiraCosta college for Fall 1984. The largest category is continuing students who were enrolled at MiraCosta the previous semester. The second largest group is the first time transfer students. These are students who started their college career at another college or university and then enrolled at MiraCosta. This category includes the reverse

transfer from 4-year institutions, community college transfers, and out-of-state transfers. The third group is the returning students. These are "stop out" students who enrolled at MiraCosta and then discontinued their education for at least one semester. They did not attend any other institution during their "stop out" time.

The fourth largest group is first-time students who have never attended college. This group is composed of three types of students. The first are those students who move into our district or who live outside our district and enroll in college for the first time at MiraCosta. In fall 1984, 10.7 percent of our credit enrollment came from this source. The second type are



students who were enrolled at one of our feeder high schools. These students may be a recent or non-recent high school graduates or a high school dropout. As mentioned earlier, students from the class of 1984 fall into three of these enrollment categories, either continuing, returning, or first time. The third type are students who enroll from high schools in the Palomar district. We enrolled 107 first time freshman from their area. When examining Palomar's sources of enrollment for Fall 1984, they enrolled 130 first time freshman from the MiraCosta College District. These 130 students accounted for 0.9% of Palomar's total enrollment of 13,835 credit students.

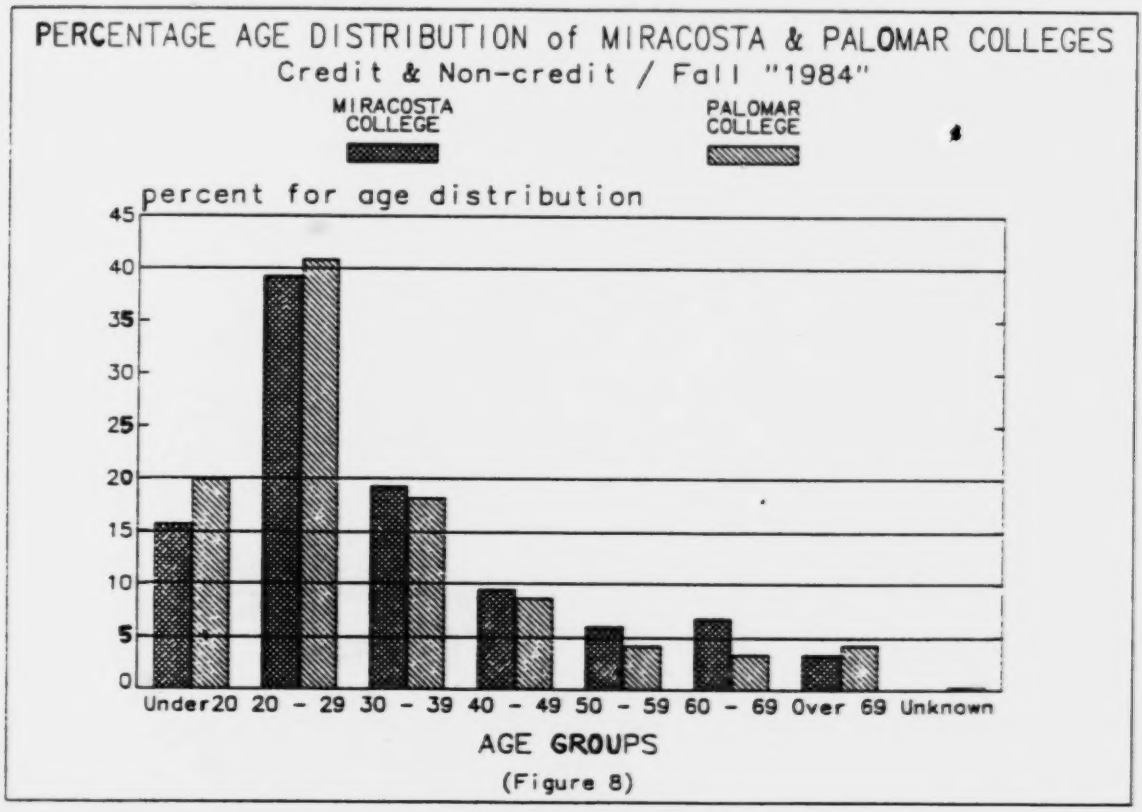
The last group are returning transfer students who have attended MiraCosta in the past, went away to another college or university and have returned to MiraCosta. This group comprises

only 2.9% of the credit enrollment for fall 1984.

Age distribution

One of the most important findings is the drop in the actual number of 18 and 19 year old individuals in our district. The 1980 census reported that there were 11,473 individuals living in the MiraCosta Community College district. SANDAG estimates that in 1985, there are 6,064 18 and 19 year old individuals in our district. This is a drop of 5,409 people in the past 5 years. This points out that large numbers of 18 and 19 year old persons simply do not exist in our district.

Figure 8 reports the age distribution of MiraCosta and Palomar colleges by percentage of total enrollment. It shows that Palomar has enrolled slightly more students in the 19 years and below area. These data include both credit and non-credit students. It is important to take into account that 27.6% of MiraCosta's enrollment is made up of non-credit students compared 7.7% at Palomar. As a result of our large non-credit program, a larger percentage of older students enroll at MiraCosta compared to Palomar.



(Figure 8)

Summary and Conclusions

High school students both locally and nationally are a smaller group than a few years ago. This decline appears to have reached a leveling off point in our district last year and MiraCosta can expect to see more students in the high school over the next few years. This growth can directly be attributed to in-migration. This large in-migration will offset the effect of the increased drop out rates in our local high schools. The net result will be a growing pool of high school graduates.

MiraCosta, Palomar and Mesa will continue to attract the high school student who chooses not to attend a 4-year college. Palomar may be getting a large share of students from our district, but we also are enrolling students from their feeder high schools, such as Vista and Fallbrook.

When examining the sources of enrollment, 32.4% of MiraCosta's total fall credit enrollment came from new students who were classified as first-time transfer students or first time students from outside our district. They enroll at MiraCosta for reasons which are unknown at this time. In addition, there are no formal recruiting efforts directed at these students. The college recruiting efforts have been directed at the feeder high schools. The number of first time students from our feeder high schools amounts to only 6.3% of our total credit enrollment for fall 1984.

It can be concluded that increased recruiting at our feeder high schools will not solve our enrollment problem. There are simply not enough students on the high school campuses or in the community to make a substantial difference in our enrollment statistics. The college is getting its share of the high school students who choose to attend a community college. It is estimated that Palomar College may be getting a small percentage more of our high school students than we are, but this difference is small compared to our total credit enrollment.

MiraCosta's ability to attract and enroll new students is completely dependent upon populations of students the college can not easily control, identify, or predict. The in-migration of students into our district and from neighboring districts amount to the major source of new students into the college. The college does not recruit at other colleges and universities to attract the reverse transfer student nor does the college officially recruit outside district boundries.

Recommendations

As a result of these data and other written sources, the following are recommendations which MiraCosta should consider in the near future:

1. Maintain the current level of recruiting activities at the feeder high schools.

2. Increase recruitment activities directed at the high school dropouts.

3. Develop new recruiting activities aimed at the potential students moving into the area. Many of these students have attended other colleges or universities prior to living in San Diego county.

4. Increase retention activities which encourage students to stay in school and to reenroll in subsequent semesters. The largest source of enrollment is returning and continuing students.

5. Develop recruiting activities aimed at the 25 to 40 year old individuals.

6. Develop recruiting activities at unemployed and under-employed individuals in our district.

7. Continue to monitor: (a) enrollment by grade level from feeder high schools, (b) graduation rates and (c) sources of enrollment.

7. Conduct a comprehensive study of MiraCosta college enrollment patterns.

References

Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges, First Census Reports (Fall 1980 to Fall 1984), Sacramento, CA., 1980 to 1984.

McConnell, William R., and Norman Kaufman, High School Graduates: Projections for the 50 states (1982-2000)., Western Interstate Commission for High Education, Boulder, Colorado, Jan. 1984.

San Diego County Office of Education, 1984 Fall Enrollment, San Diego, CA., March 1, 1985.

California Postsecondary Education Commission, Eligibility of California's 1983 High School Graduates for Admission to the State's Public Universities, Sacramento, CA., April 15, 1985.

United Way of San Diego County, Environmental Scan Report, A Look Ahead, San Diego County 1985-2000, A report of the Strategic Planning Project, San Diego, CA., 1985.

Table 4. Age distribution of MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges credit and non-credit students, Fall 1984.

Age Range	MiraCosta Number	MiraCosta Percent	Palomar Number	Palomar Percent
19 and below	1,246	15.7%	3,098	20.0%
20-29	3,066	39.3%	6,323	40.9%
30-39	1,504	19.3%	2,809	18.2%
40-49	740	9.5%	1,335	8.7%
50-59	462	6.0%	652	4.2%
60-69	531	6.8%	524	3.4%
70 and above	266	3.4%	670	4.3%
Unknown	1	.0%	40	.3%
TOTAL	7,796	100.0%	15,451	100.0%

Table 5. Number of high school students enrolled in grades 9 to 12 reported by Unified Districts during fall for the past 5 years.

Grade	Fall 1980	Fall 1981	Fall 1982	Fall 1983	Fall 1984	% Change Since 1983
Oceanside Unified						
9th	1,050	977	993	1,044	1,111	
10th	656	671	656	717	762	
11th	601	529	558	557	549	
12th	499	560	475	484	492	+1.7%
9-12 Special	240	156*	186*	165*	135*	
TOTAL	3,046	2,893	2,868	2,967	3,049	+2.8%
Carlsbad Unified						
9th	356	326	383	369	452	
10th	389	333	335	361	386	
11th	394	368	302	328	307	
12th	396	359	330	269	264	-1.7%
9-12 Special	153	86*	154*	102*	187*	
TOTAL	1,688	1,472	1,504	1,429	1,596	+11.7%
San Dieguito Unified						
9th	956	951	1,006	1,156	1,214	
10th	940	983	982	999	1,202	
11th	940	908	963	970	1,004	
12th	936	875	839	874	925	+5.8%
9-12 Special	276	176*	155*	140*	118*	
TOTAL	4,048	3,893	3,945	4,139	4,463	+7.8%
GRAND TOTAL 12TH GRADE	1,831	1,794	1,644	1,627	1,681	+3.3%

* Ungraded special Ed. students. All other reported in Grade level.

Table 6. Number of high school graduates from MiraCosta college feeder high schools

High School	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS					
Oceanside	259	267	256	245	234*
El Camino	269	288	269	234	256*
Carlsbad	315	339	317	248	272*
San Dieguito	398	348	440	460	460*
Torry Pines	465	388	374	388	451*
Sunset Continuation	10	23	30	46	40*
La Palma Continuation	34	34	35	33	20*
Ocean Shores Continuation	11	14	12	10	12*
Sub Total	1,761	1,701	1,733	1,664	1,745*
PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS					
Army Navy Acad.	47	66	42	50	51*
T O T A L D I S T R I C T	1,808	1,767	1,775	1,714	1,796*
Calif.	271,471	276,454	257,816*	248,156*	248,030*
U. S.	2,918,310	2,845,451	2,766,167*	2,618,523*	2,544,477*

* Estimates

Appendix C

ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges FEB 2 8 1986